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## Current Events

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[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and Franklin H. Potter, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Julianne A. Roller, Franklin High School, Portland, Ore., and to Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, Cal. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

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### California

*Berkeley.*—The University of California this year holds two summer sessions concurrently, at Berkeley and at Los Angeles, from June 21 to July 31. At Berkeley, teachers of the classics will have an opportunity to take work with Miss Frances E. Sabin, of the University of Wisconsin, author of the well-known volume on *The Relation of Latin to Practical Life*. The laboratory method applied so successfully to the subject of Latin in the state of Wisconsin will be illustrated. Three courses are offered: The Background of High-School Latin, The Teaching of High-School Latin, and Advanced Caesar (for teachers). At Los Angeles, the work will be under the direction of Professor A. P. McKinlay, who also offers three courses: Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, with special attention to the myths, the Life of Cicero, and a Teachers' Training Course.

### Illinois

*Chicago.*—On February 21 the Chicago Latin Club held its nineteenth meeting over a luncheon at the Chicago Art Institute. Professor Flickinger, president of the Club, presided. The program was a symposium on "The Study of the Classics in an Era of Reconstruction." The participants were as follows: Professor Charles J. Chamberlain, professor of botany, University of Chicago; Mr. Irving K. Pond, architect; Dr. Francis A. Purcell, Kamper College; Mr. Burton Rascoe, literary editor of the *Chicago Tribune*. Mr. Keith Preston, of Northwestern University, read a short "Ode in Time of Reconstruction." Miss Helen Gardner, custodian of the Loan Collection in the Art Institute, explained the uses of the collection.

### Iowa

*Iowa City.*—The second annual conference on high-school Latin held by the Latin department of the state university with the co-operation of the

extension division took place at Iowa City, March 5 and 6. A large number of teachers including many from the colleges attended.

The opening session was devoted to the status of Latin in the Iowa public schools. The first address was by Superintendent J. H. Harris, of Dubuque, who dealt in a most optimistic way with the attitude of administrative officers toward Latin. This was followed by a general discussion on the attitude of pupils, fellow-teachers, and the community; and it was shown that statistics on the present and past enrolment in Latin classes of the state indicate a steady increase in the number of pupils beginning Latin. Professor S. H. Bush, of the Romance department, in the university then read an interesting address on the relation of Latin to the Romance languages.

At the session on Friday evening there were two addresses: one by President Jessup, in which he emphasized the vocational value of Latin; and one by Professor G. J. Laing, of the University of Chicago, on "Latin and the Present Trend in Education." Professor Laing in his inimitable style stressed the present need for the higher intellectual values in education, for which classical studies are all but indispensable.

The session on Saturday morning was opened by an address on educational values by Professor F. C. Ensign, of the department of education in the university. Professor Ensign enumerated "six dominant educational values," to four of which he said the study of Latin contributes generously. Then came the discussion of six live problems derived from the first two years of high-school Latin. These topics were introduced by Miss Julia Padmore, of Des Moines, Miss Pearl Palmer, of Fort Dodge, Miss Helen Eddy, of the University High School, Miss Lois Russell, of Iowa City, and by Professors C. O. Denny, of Drake University, and F. H. Potter, of Iowa City. In every case a very general and interesting discussion followed.

Various exhibits, many of which were sent in from the high schools, were arranged in convenient places and received their full share of attention. An informal dinner Friday night added much to the pleasure and sociability of the meeting.

The marked success of the conference was due largely to the energetic and judicious leadership of Professor B. L. Ullman, who organized the conference and presided at the various sessions. This is Professor Ullman's first year in Iowa. He was called to the university at the beginning of the present year to assume the headship of the combined departments of Greek and Latin.

### **Kansas**

*Emporia.*—Professor W. L. Holtz, of the Kansas State Normal School, sends in the following statement in correction of the report of the Latin Round Table at Topeka as published in the January issue of the *Journal*:

The reporter who sent in the comments on the Topeka Round Table gave me credit where credit was not due. I distinctly stated that the Latin songs which I distributed were not my own but those that I had collected from various sources.

The majority of these came originally from Hunter College, New York, and from Miss Rice, of the Germantown High School, Philadelphia. Perhaps the teacher who sent in the report came into the meeting after the chairman made the foregoing statement.

### Massachusetts

*Cambridge.*—A joint meeting of the Eastern Massachusetts Section of the Classical Association of New England and the Classical Club of Greater Boston was held at Harvard University on Saturday, February 14. A program of unusual excellence was presented, as follows: "A Word of Welcome," Mr. Frederic A. Tupper, headmaster of the Brighton High School; "Enriching Secondary School Latin," Dr. Walter H. Freeman, master in Latin, Worcester Academy; "The Spirit of Comedy in Plato," Mr. William C. Greene, Groton School; "Aeschylus, Poet and Moralist," Rev. Thomas A. Becker, S.J., professor of Greek and Latin, Boston College; "What Is the Good of Latin?" Professor Charles H. Forbes, Phillips Andover Academy; "Lantern Talk: The Valley of Aosta," Mr. Alfred M. Dame, Malden High School; "The Humanities in an Age of Conflict," Rev. Samuel V. Cole, D.D., president of Wheaton College.

In the discussion Professor Hawes, of Wellesley College, and Rev. A. A. Berle, D.D., contributed to the interest of the meeting.

Mr. Tupper voiced the sense of the large audience when he expressed the hope that the papers might be published in the *Classical Weekly* or the *Classical Journal*.

### Ohio

*Columbus.*—The Columbus Latin Club held its second lecture-luncheon of the current season Saturday noon, February 21, at the Chittenden Hotel.

Dr. Hugh M. Kingery, of Westerville, Ohio, spoke on "The Human Element in Cicero and Caesar." Dr. Kingery, formerly a professor of Latin in Wabash College, is well known to the classical world through his editions of Seneca, Pliny, and Cicero.

Dr. Rollin B. Tanner, professor of Greek and Latin at Denison University, spoke on "A Latin Laboratory," a project personally worked out by Dr. Tanner in his classes at Denison.

Among the guests was Mr. William H. Allen, director of the Institute for Public Service of New York City. Mr. Allen has been superintending a survey of the public schools of Ohio. By his remarks, it appeared that he was surprised to find that teachers of the classics are up to date in their methods of teaching.

The first meeting of the Club was held in October at which Dr. M. S. Slaughter, head of the Latin department of the University of Wisconsin, entertained a large gathering with his illustrated lecture, "Down the Dalmatian Coast."

### Pennsylvania

*Philadelphia.*—No one of us will question that in the fight for Latin much more might be accomplished if the interest and sympathy of the grade teachers could be enlisted. With this in mind, the Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Liberal Studies, through the generous co-operation of Professor Walton Brooks McDaniel, of the University of Pennsylvania, was able, on February 26, at the Philadelphia Normal School, to offer to the public-school teachers of the city a lecture entitled "Glimpses of Roman History for the Grade Teacher." The lecture was illustrated with more than a hundred and fifty carefully chosen lantern slides.

Although Professor McDaniel followed the course in Roman history as outlined for the Philadelphia schools, his aim was evidently not so much to present to his audience the ordinary facts of Roman history as, by the study of important characters and by the description of salient episodes in Rome's great drama, to interpret the meaning of Roman civilization.

Dr. McDaniel's scholarly development of his subject combined with a peculiar felicitousness of phrase won the enthusiastic appreciation of the large audience that crowded the auditorium. There seems to be little doubt that in the success of this meeting the Society for the Promotion of Liberal Studies (and perhaps other organizations similarly inclined) may find sufficient encouragement for further effort along this line of propaganda.

*Pittsburgh.*—The Classical Association of Pittsburgh and Vicinity met at the University of Pittsburgh on February 7. The program of papers was as follows: "Cicero as a Hellenist," by Professor Henry S. Scribner, University of Pittsburgh; Reviews of recent beginning Latin books, by Miss Helen McNeese, Tarentum High School, and Miss Helen Bartlett, Washington, Pennsylvania, High School; Current Events, by J. B. Hench, the University School; "What the College Expects of Its Freshmen in Latin," by Professor Evan T. Sage, University of Pittsburgh.

### Tennessee

*Clarksville.*—The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Philological Association was held at the Southwestern Presbyterian University, Clarksville, Tennessee, February 27 and 28.

That portion of the program having especial relation to the classics was as follows: "Homer the Hebrew," by Clyde Pharr, Southwestern Presbyterian University; "A New Alignment of Latin Teachers," by Miss Nellie A. Smith, Bristol High School; "The Language of the *Bellum Hispaniense*," by C. E. Little, George Peabody College for Teachers; "Julius Caesar" (illustrated), by R. B. Steele, Vanderbilt University; "A Study in Comparative Religion," by L. I. MacQueen, Southwestern Presbyterian University; "Making Ancient Languages Really Live," by J. Frank Jarrell, Webb School; "The Juvenile Poems of Ovid," by R. S. Radford, University of Tennessee; "The Little Word," by George Pullen Jackson, Vanderbilt University.

**Foreign**

*The future of education in Great Britain.*—The Department of Reconstruction has issued a pamphlet entitled *The Classics in British Education*, making a strong appeal to the authorities of schools and colleges to maintain on the widest basis the position of the ancient learning, and to improve their methods of communicating it. This action has caused no little surprise even in conservative circles, as it was feared that the active attacks on humanistic education made especially during the war by the advocates of a narrowed system of scientific training might have effectually prejudiced the position of the classics in national educational policy. Undoubtedly the tendencies of the hour have proved the necessity of strong efforts to ward off a fatal lowering of standards, for it has become more and more evident that not merely Latin and Greek culture but all literary and historical education, as apart from the necessary requirements of modern science, has become gravely threatened.

Being aware of the danger of extreme and sudden changes, the Board of Education has by the authority of the Prime Minister appointed a strong committee to deal with the subject, consisting of classical experts representing the older and the modern universities, the colleges of women, and all grades of schools in which classical education has been hitherto imparted. Besides many members of the classical faculty at Oxford and Cambridge, including the Regius professor of Greek at Oxford, the headmasters of Eton and Marlborough colleges and of the Whitgift School, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, and Miss Jex-Blake of Cambridge are acting on the committee; the Scotch universities are represented by the Principal of Aberdeen and Professor Burnet of St. Andrews (who is also president of the Scottish Classical Association). Ireland is represented by Professor Henry Browne, S.J., who lectured in America during the war upon the "Reform of Classical Education" and is associated with the movement for utilizing public museums in education. Mr. R. W. Livingston, who is well known in England and America as an eloquent advocate of classical studies as a preparation for modern life, is included; also Mr. George MacMillan, who as honorable secretary of the Hellenic Society has during a period of forty years identified himself with Greek archaeological research; and a few members associated from non-classical faculties.

It is probable that the immense amount of evidence which is being prepared by and for the committee will involve a somewhat lengthened sitting. Committees which were previously organized on somewhat similar lines to inquire into scientific education and the teaching of modern subjects took between one and two years to prepare their reports. Their work was considered by the Board of Education to be valuable for the purposes of reconstruction; and there appears no reason for apprehending that the Classical Committee will render less efficient service to the country. The result will

be awaited with attention by all who are interested in higher studies and in the spread of mental culture among modern and democratic communities.

*Puzzling the polyglots.*—A very effective equivalent of the Tower of Babel has been created in the Baltic Provinces of Northern Russia by the patriotic fervor of the three new republics of Eathonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Each of these small states has adopted as its official language—somewhat after the fashion of the attempted Gaelic revival in Ireland—a local dialect which only a very limited number of the inhabitants understand and which is neither read nor written. The result has been a series of official signs, posters, and commercial prospectuses that would delight the heart of a professor of comparative philology, but which are enough to completely paralyze the brain processes of the ordinary traveler. The American Red Cross, which has offices and transportation services in all three states, has been forced to print its forms in eight languages—English, French, Russian, German, and four local idioms.

To imagine a parallel situation in America, one would have to suppose that, for instance, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island should each adopt as their official speech a vernacular that would be unintelligible to its neighbors, and which even its own people could not read nor write. It is all very well for the Estonian or Lett who stays at home, but for anyone who crosses the frontier, or even takes a train, it is not funny. Railway officials, unable to decipher the wording of passes and tickets, go frantic. And as for the unfortunate passport clerks on the borders of these proud republics, who have already had to struggle with Greek, Swedish, French, English, and Italian notations on the passports of foreigners, they are swiftly becoming candidates for a commission in lunacy.